

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BARRAN 00119 091703Z
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SSO-00 /003 W
-----091708Z 098336 /50
O 091400Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL BARRANQUILLA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 121
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS BARRANQUILLA 0119

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES CO(MIMS, ARTHUR AND HEGGOOD, FRANK)

SUBJECT: PRESUMED DEATHS OF FRANK HEGGOOD AND ARTHUR MIMS

REF: TUCKER-FRANK TELCON MAY 9

1. CONOFF VISITED MAJOR CARLOS CUELLAR, HEAD OF DAS BARRANQUILLA LATE AFTERNOON MAY 6. HE INFORMED CONOFF THAT PREVIOUS NIGHT DAS HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE THAT TWO AMERICANS KILLED IN AN AIR CRASH HAD BEEN BURIED IN PLASTIC BAGS IN A CEMETERY IN A SMALL TOWN NEAR CHIVOLO. THE INFORMANT SAID THERE IS A WOODEN MARKER AT THE GRAVE SITE WHICH SAYS QUOTE HERE LIE THE PILOT AND CO-PILOT OF A PLANE THAT CRASHED NEAR HERE UNQUOTE.

2. THE BODIES ARE SAID TO BE TOTALLY BURNED, BUT CUELLAR ANTICIPATES NO DIFFICULTY IN SECURING EXHUMATION ORDER FROM LOCAL JUDGE, AND WITH DENTAL CHARTS AND KNOWLEDGE OF BLOOD TYPES OF SUBJECTS, DAS EXPERTS EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE TWO BODIES ARE THOSE OF HEGGOOD AND MIMS.

3. TRAVEL TO THE BURIAL SITE WOULD INVOLVE FOUR DAYS, ROUND TRIP, BY LAND, PLUS ONE DAY FOR SECURING EXHUMATION ORDER, AND DISINTERMENT. TRAVEL BY SMALL PLANE WOULD INVOLVE ONLY DAY TRIP FOR ENTIRE BUSINESS. CUELLAR WOULD EXPECT TO BRING THE BODIES BACK TO BARRANQUILLA FOR NECESSARY TESTS, AND THEY COULD PRO-
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BALLY THEN BE RETURNED TO THE U.S. IF THEY ARE IDENTIFIED AND THEIR FAMILIES WISH THEIR RETURN.

4. LOCAL POLICE, HOWEVER DO NOT HAVE READILY AVAILABLE THE FUNDS TO CHARTER LIGHT PLANE NOR DO THEY HAVE PERSONNEL FOR THE FIVE DAY TRIP TO INVESTIGATE THE SITE IF DONE VIA LAND

TRAVEL. CUELLAR TOLD CONOFF THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO INVESTIGATE, BUT THAT THEY CAN ONLY MAKE THE TRIP WHEN FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE. HE HAVE NO INDICATION WHEN THAT MAY BE. EXACT COST OF CHARTERING PLANE UNKNOWN, BUT EXPECTED TO BE SEVERAL HUNDRED DOLLARS.

5. ON MORNING OF MAY 6, CONOFF VISITED BARRANQUILLA AIRPORT AND SPOKE WITH BOTH IMMIGRATION AND FLIGHT CONTROL AUTHORITIES. RECORDS OF APRIL 15, 16 17, AND 18 WERE CHECKED, AND THERE APPEARED NO EVIDENCE THAT LOCKHEED LODESTAR N 570 FT, MIMS OR HEGGOOD WERE EVER AT THAT AIRPORT ON THOSE DATES.

6. CONOFF REQUESTS THIS INFO BE PASSED ON TO MRS MIMS AND MRS HEGGOOD, AND THAT ANYTHING THAT WOULD BE OF USE IN IDENTIFYING REMAINS OF TWO BODIES BELIEVED TO BE BURIED NEAR CHOVOLO, BE SENT TO CONSULATE TO BE GIVEN TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO ASSIST THEM IN THEIR INVESTIGATION.

7. MAJOR CUELLAR ASKED CONOFF TO EMPHASIZE THAT THROUGH INFORMATION ON REMAINS BURIED NEAR CHIVOLO COMES FROM USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE, THERE IS SO GUANTEE THAT THERE ARE TWO BODIES BURIED THERE, NOR THAT THEY ARE MIMS AND HEGGOOD.
FRANK

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